1: Jochelson E-5 (1900-01) 1908 RY4 Koryak (RY4

CLEANLINESS. — The Koryak can by no means be classed among cleanly people. With extremely rare exceptions, resulting from the civilizing influence of the Russians, they do not wash. The faces of children, as well as those of old people, are covered with a layer of dirt and soot mixed with fat, so that it is difficult to determine the natural color of their skin. Only the girls and young women washed their faces before coming to us to be measured. Mucus from the nostrils is almost always a decoration of the children, and the older people are frequently not far behind them in this respect.

The kettles in which the food is cooked are full of reindeer and dog hair, which fall from the clothes and fill the air of the Koryak house. The Koryak kill lice, which are regarded by them as properly belonging to a healthy man, with their teeth. There is a prevailing belief among them, as well as among the Yukaghir, that when a man is deserted by lice he will soon die. They eat also the large larvæ which develop from the eggs deposited by the reindeer-flies in the hair of the reindeer. No matter how putrid food may be, the Koryak have no aversion to it, and they will even drink the urine of persons intoxicated with fly-agaric.

DISEASES. — Among non-contagious diseases, the most frequent are derangements of the digestive organs, caused by irregular nutrition and the use of putrid fish and meat. Complaints of pain in the stomach are frequent, and the Maritime branch of the tribe especially suffer from the tape-worm. Tetter, scabies, and other skin-diseases, are very common, owing to their filthy habits.

Diseases of the eyes — such as inflammation of the lids, or an affection of the cornea — are widely spread. This is to be attributed to the action of smoke in the underground houses of the Maritime Koryak, and to the reflected light of the snow in the spring. People suffering from conjunctivitis and cataract are frequently met with; but I saw only three cases of blindness during my travels, and the three so affected were people of middle age. From the Report of 1884, by Dr. Uspenski, the district physician who visited some Koryak settlements and camps, there were found, in 70 houses visited, 14 persons suffering from cataract,[1] which is a large percentage.

The Koryak are not subject to nervous diseases to the same extent as other arctic tribes, though some are afflicted with symptoms of the two forms of nervousness so frequently met with in the Arctic region. These two forms are widely prevalent among the Yukaghir, Tungus, Yakut, and also among the Russian immigrants. They are generally known by the Yakut names of meryak and menerik; but there are specific names in all the languages of the arctic tribes, not only for these two diseases, but for their various symptoms as well.[2] However, it is probable that these two forms of nervous suffering are symptomatic manifestations of arctic hysteria.

[1] Taken from the Government Archives of Gishiginsk.

[2] A more detailed description of those diseases will be given in my work on the Yukaghir.

22:Barrett-Hamilton and Jones--286 [2] N-2 (1897) 1898 Koryak
116, 342, 352, 515

"The roof of one yurt into which we entered was supported by four posts, forming a rectangular space between them in its centre. This was the main compartment, and was separated by a wall of wood, with a door in it from the hall. (1) Those parts of the main

1. As a rule, the only division between the two compartments was a wooden partition about 3 inches high, the whole flooring of the inner room being raised to that height.

compartment which lay outside the rectangular space between the four pillars were raised to a height of a few inches from the ground, and the whole floor was strewn with clean grass or rushes, which might serve as a carpet by day and as bedding by night, and gave us an idea of being far cleaner than the yurts of Bering or Copper islands, notwithstanding that the latter contain evidences of modern civilization in the shape of beds, crockery, and iron stoves. Nevertheless, the odour of the Karaga natives, and the readiness with which they spat on the floor, warned us that their supposed cleanliness was probably more apparent than real."